

VIII.—*Synopsis of the Vespertilionidæ of Nipal.* By B. H. HODGSON,
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I have the pleasure to forward to you herewith the names and characters, which I have provisionally affixed to the *Vespertilionidæ* of the central region of Nipal. Without access to large museums and libraries, it is scarcely necessary to observe that the naming and defining of species can be but very imperfectly performed.

RHINOLPHUS.

* Prothem. memb. sup. transversa. adpressa. Sinu frontali.

Rh. armiger, mihi. Bright brown, with darker membranes. Frontal sinus round, and furnished with a pencil of hairs. Nasal appendage very large quadrate, adpressed, skinny in the lower part, fleshy in the upper, shaped like a coat of arms, with double field; the superior and inferior fields separated by two parallel, subtrilobate ridges, whereof the upper is fleshy like the proximate field. The lips with a triple fold of skin on each side. The antitragus vaguely developed, and wavily emarginated. Snout to rump, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; expanse, 22; weight 3 oz. Females and young males, of a duller, deeper-toned brown.

* Prothem. memb. sup. erecta. haud sinu frontali.

Rhinolphus tragatus, mihi. Uniform deep brown, with the lips paler and rusty. Of the nasal appendage, the upper salient process is like a barred spear-head (‡), and the lower like a raised door-knocker. Antitragus considerably developed, so as to form a semi-circular mock† oreillon, whence the trivial name. Lips simple, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length; the tail $1\frac{7}{8}$; expanse, $15\frac{1}{2}$; weight 2 oz.

Remarks.—Both the above species have the pubic teats strikingly developed. In form they are just the same as the true or pectoral teats, and in size, even larger than the latter. At their bases is a distinct indication of a gland, under the outer coat of the animals. The ears of both species are ‘tremblingly alive all over,’ and capable of considerable movement and compression, whence perhaps the transverse striæ or rays by which they are distinguished. In both species, there is some appearance of tragal and antitragal development. In *tragatus* (rectè anti-*tragatus*), the latter is prominent. These animals have manners nearly similar to those of the true *Vespertilio*s. So soon as it is dark, they come forth from the cavities of rocks, in groups, to skim the surface of standing crops, or to glide around and between umbrageous trees, in search of nocturnal insects, which

† N. B.—The true oreillon, peculiar to *Vespertilio*, is an enlargement of the tragus.

constitute their sole food. They make their exit rather sooner than the true bats, and always in considerable numbers. They are not migratory, nor subject to hibernation. They breed once a year, towards the close of summer, and produce two young, differing from the parents chiefly in the very restricted development of the nasal appendages.

PTEROPUS.

* Ecaudatæ.

Pt. leucocephalus, mihi. Whole head and neck, with the body below, rufous yellow; face, as far as the eyes, the body above, and the membranes, deep brown. Snout to rump, 10 inches. Expanse, 46. Weight, 22 oz.

* Caudatæ.

Pt. pyrivorus, mihi. Wholly of an earthy brown; nude skin of lips, of joints, and of toes, fleshy gray; tail very short, with its base enveloped in the interfemoral membrane, and its tip free. Snout to rump, six inches; tail, half an inch. Expanse, 24 inches. Weight, 5 oz.

Remarks.—The Pteropi never appear in the central region of Nipal, save in autumn, when they come in large bodies, to plunder the ripe fruit in gardens. The lesser species is a perfect pest, from the havoc it makes amongst the ripe pears. Hence I have called it pyrivorus. These animals are never seen in Central Nipal, save at midnight, at which time they come to feed, and necessarily from a very considerable distance. In the plains it is noted of them, that they will travel 30 or 40 miles, and as many back, in the course of a single night, in order to procure food.

VESPERTILIO.

V. formosa, mihi. Entirely of a bright, soft, ruddy yellow, with the digital membranes triangularly indented, blackish. Head, conical; face, sharp; muzzle and lips, confluentlly nudish; the former, anteally grooved, not above; outer and inner ears acutely pointed, moderate, less the head; teeth $\frac{2.2}{6}$ $\frac{1.1}{1.1}$ $\frac{6.6}{6.6}$ snout to rump, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, 2; expanse, $12\frac{1}{2}$.

V. fuliginosa, mihi. Wholly sooty brown. Ears, lips, and muzzle, as in the last: and face sharp, but the rostrum somewhat recurved, owing to the concave bend of the nasal bones, which in *formosa* are rather convex. Teeth $\frac{2.2}{6}$ $\frac{1.1}{1.1}$ $\frac{5.5}{6.6}$. In size somewhat less than *formosa*.

V. labiata. Thick-lipped Bat, mihi. Head broad and depressed, with a bluff physiognomy, and all the organs placed low down on the sides of the head; muzzle, small, clearly defined, rounded, grooved; lips very tumid, but not warty nor nude; ears shorter than the head,

remote, erect, spheroidal: auricle of the same form, and directed towards the conch of ear; posterior margin of the helix folded outwards, and carried forwards to the gape.

Saturate brown throughout. Skin, wherever denuded, purpure-scent. Teeth $\frac{2.2}{6} - \frac{1.1}{1.1} \frac{6.6}{6.6}$; snout to rump, three inches; tail, two; expanse 15.

Remarks.—The bats remain with us throughout the year, and do not hibernate. They quest for food solitarily, and therein chiefly their manners differ from those of the Rhinolphi. Labiata is closely affined to M. GEOFFROY'S Noctula, and has a very different physiognomy from the other two species, which have both a sharp visage, though their crania exhibit in the facial part a considerable diversity, In Formosa, the nasal bones are slightly convexed in their length, and unite easily with a low forehead: in Fuliginosa, the same bones incline to a concave bend in their length, and join a high forehead, with a considerable curve.

IX.—*Note on the Red-billed Erolia. By the same.*

With reference to the paper on the Red-billed Erolia, published in your No. for August, I beg to acquaint you that I have been induced to adopt a new genus for this bird, and that the change of the generic has led me to the alteration of the specific name also. As I am no friend to the multiplication of names, I would observe, that in adopting a new genus, I have been governed by these two circumstances—1st, that VIELLOT'S genus Erolia has been rejected; 2nd, that GOULD'S genus Ibidorhyncha is inaccurate. I have had opportunity to examine three specimens, and from careful comparison of them, have drawn the following generic character.

GENUS CLORHYNCHUS.

Rostrum omnino Numeniacum: differt tamen tomiis inflexis denticulatisque, necnon apicibus acutiusculis.

Corporis, alarum caudæque forma sicut in Grallatoribus typicis.

Tibiæ et tarsi sub-breves, tibiæ trans medium plumosæ, teres: tarsi leviter reticulati.

Pedes tridactyli typicè cursorii, marginibus tamen digitorum subdilatatis, externoque digito libero.

Species nova. Cl. *Strophiatius*, Anglicè *Gorgeted Clorhynx*.

Cl. corpore supra, colloque plumbeis. Caudâ pallidiore, fasciisque nigris transversim instructa. Corpore subtus albo. Capitis vertice, facie, guttureque nigris. Pectore strophio nigro ornato. Iridibus rostroque sanguineis. Pedibus purpurescente griseis.